

Spann was a master marketer, utilizing the radio airwaves to promote some of the biggest concerts and shows in Chicago during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, and providing a platform for African American musicians and entertainers. He formed the Delta Production Company, a concert production and marketing company which produced shows at The Regal Theatre, Arie Crown Theatre, the Lyric Opera House, the Aragon Ballroom, and the Trianon Ballroom. Spann was also the owner of The Burning Spear nightclub and several other establishments.

Spann booked James Brown; Sammy Davis, Jr.; The Temptations; Chaka Khan; Dinah Washington; Jerry Butler; The Impressions; The Four Tops; Marvin Gaye; Al Green; Otis Clay; Earth, Wind & Fire; Sam Cooke; The Staple Singers; The Commodores; Marvin Gaye; Cab Calloway; Roy Hamilton; Jackie Wilson; Little Richard; and Count Basie. Notably, he was most famous for crowning Aretha Franklin "the Queen of Soul" in 1962.

For nearly six decades, Spann's radio station played a pivotal role in creating a platform for community, business, and political leaders. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. could be heard regularly on the Wesley South Show, Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad were part of the evening format, and Mayor Harold Washington favored WVON for his public service announcements. In 1968, WVON was the first station in the country to announce the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when Reverend Jesse Jackson called from Memphis with the news on April 4, 1968.

In 1975, WVON was sold and changed frequency. Spann formed a business partnership with Vernon Jarrett and Wesley South and bought the license to the original frequency in 1979. The new radio station, WXOL, was an all-blues format where musicians such as Johnny Taylor, Buddy Guy, KoKo Taylor, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Clay, and many others could be heard. In 1983, the station reclaimed the old call letters of WVON.

In 2012, Pervis Spann was inducted in the Blues Hall of Fame for his contributions in media, production, and business. He joined legendary musical luminaries such as B.B. King, Etta James, Mavis Staples, and Willie Dixon.

Spann was the epitome of the American dream—he went from 'sharecropping to shareholding'. Throughout his life, Spann used the radio station as an outlet to cultivate new aspiring radio personalities. He was always willing to give a helping hand to those who needed work and support, and he both recognized talent and encouraged young people to pursue a college education.

Spann, along with his wife, Mrs. Lovie Spann, and four children, Melody, Darrell, Latrice, and Chante, continued to call the South Side of Chicago home for the rest of his life. Pervis Spann's loss is deeply felt across Chicago, the nation, and even the world.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family—Lovie, Melody, Darrell, Latrice, and Chante—and with all who loved and were impacted by this truly great man.

## RECOGNIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY'S FIRST RESPONDERS

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of our first responders for their heroism during the COVID-19 pandemic and every day for their bravery and selflessness. Arlington County's first responders have been on the frontlines, making more than 300 trips in 2021 to Culpepper Garden, consistently risking their own well-being to protect and serve our community members.

I share my colleagues' enthusiasm in the General Assembly and on the Arlington County Board in dedicating the Arlington County First Responders Bench at Culpepper Garden to recognize and celebrate all first responders on this day, March 25, 2022.

I urge all residents to join the Arlington Network for Community Readiness and help us all prepare for and respond to an emergency and to sign up for the Disaster Volunteer Registry to be a volunteer resource for our area during an emergency.

I also commend the staff and residents of Culpepper Garden for enhancing our community in so many ways. As a nonprofit retirement community that is home to 450 low-income seniors who live in 346 independent living and assisted living apartments, they help make our community dynamic and vibrant.

Please join me in commemorating these heroic first responders.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER OF MICHAEL LAVOIE

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Michael J. Lavoie, a dedicated public servant whose commitment to protecting the safety of the people of Worcester, Massachusetts has saved countless lives over the last three decades.

Joining the Worcester Fire Department in 1987, Chief Lavoie served for 14 years as a firefighter. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2001, captain in 2008, and then Worcester Fire Safety Division District Chief and North End District Chief in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Finally, Chief Lavoie was named chief of the Worcester Fire Department in 2017. During his tenure, Chief Lavoie led the department and the City of Worcester through challenging times with grace and strength.

Throughout his career, Chief Lavoie facilitated great improvements. He helped implement training workshops and instituted a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, which uses safety features like a thermal imager and enhanced communication capabilities to protect the health of firefighters. Chief Lavoie also worked tirelessly with Worcester City Manager Ed Augustus to bring new vehicles to the department and to make sure every firetruck was always fully staffed.

Madam Speaker, the impact Chief Lavoie had on the Worcester Fire Department cannot

be understated. He has shown, time and time again, incredible leadership and commitment to the people of Worcester.

Chief Lavoie is a public servant, through and through. Over the course of his 35-year long career, he gave so much to the City of Worcester and improved the working conditions of firefighters along the way. I also have to thank Chief Lavoie's family for supporting him in his service to our city. Their sacrifice has allowed all of us to have a safer place to call home.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and all the people in whose lives Chief Lavoie has made a difference, it is my great privilege to thank and recognize Chief Michael J. Lavoie for his service to the people of Massachusetts and his unwavering commitment to making a safer world.

## COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAFT COLLEGE

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Taft College and recognize the profound contribution the school has made to our community over the last century.

Established on August 30, 1922, Taft College emerged from humble beginnings. Sharing a campus with Taft Union High School at the time, Taft College enrolled 10 students in its first year of operation. As one of only 15 community colleges in California in the early 1920s, the Taft Union High School District Board—the founders of Taft College—envisioned that the school would transform the region by offering local students unprecedented access to higher education. Since then, the school has done just that, producing leaders in business, law, nursing, education, athletics, and public service.

Today, Taft College is bustling, operating its own independent campus of nearly 40 acres and its enrollment has grown to 2,400 students. With an average class size of 18 students, students may enroll in any of the 43 degree and 30 certificate programs offered at Taft College and receive high-quality instruction in fields of study ranging from Liberal Arts to Engineering in small group settings.

Throughout the past century, Taft has proven itself as a leader among community colleges. In 1995, the school created the Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program and in 1997, pioneered a distance learning program. The TIL Program is a two-year, post-secondary educational program that provides training and support for students with developmental or intellectual disabilities and helps prepare them to lead confident, self-sufficient lives. Taft College's innovative, first-of-its-kind distance learning program offers greater flexibility to students pursuing a degree while balancing additional priorities at work and in life. Both programs have garnered respect and accolades from educational leaders within and beyond the Taft community.

Taft College's success and the critical role that it plays in uplifting individuals throughout California's Central Valley are undeniable. I am confident that Taft College will continue to

further its long legacy of instilling a passion for learning in its students and the Taft community. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, it is my honor to share the history of Taft College, celebrate the school's centennial anniversary, and commemorate its enduring contributions to our community.

HONORING DR. ANTHONY CAO MINH HUNG FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN AND COMMITMENT TO VIETNAMESE AMERICAN YOUTH TALENT DEVELOPMENT

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Cao Minh Hung (aka, Anthony Hung Cao), who co-founded the Cau Lac Bo Tinh Nghe Si (Vietnamese Artists Friendship Club) in 2010, a non-profit organization with members from across the United States and is well-known among Vietnamese community overseas for its activities and contributions in cultural and social events. The purpose of the organization is to preserve Vietnamese culture, as well as encouraging and promoting new talents in music, art, and literature. The organization includes a choir of more than 50 members and participates in many community events throughout the years.

Dr. Cao Minh Hung practices dentistry in Costa Mesa and Long Beach, California. Besides working as a dentist, he spends most of his time serving the community through his organization. He currently serves as a volunteer producer and host for television talk shows, music programs, and children educational shows such as Hat Mam Viet Nam (Seeds of Vietnam) on Little Saigon TV and IBC TV. In the past 10 years, he has hosted more than 400 television talk shows to promote music, culture, and bring important news to the community.

Most importantly, Dr. Anthony Cao Minh Hung founded the Youth Talent Development Program, which has trained and educated nearly 100 young students in the past 6 years. The program includes many aspects from teaching Vietnamese language through music and dance, as well as educating students Vietnamese culture and history through the Trivia Contest Show (aka Do Vui De Hoc), which broadcasts weekly on Little Saigon TV.

The Youth Talent Development Program serves youth from 5 to 18 years old with vocal and dance classes every Saturday. This free program educates students about their cultural heritage through Vietnamese songs and dances, as well as guides them to become future leader for the community. In addition, performances on stage help students build confidence in their personal life.

During the pandemic, Dr. Anthony Cao Minh Hung remained active and managed his time to produce many virtual shows via Zoom. He also advocated for the community's well-being and actively involved in the American Dental Society and the California Dental Society. Besides composing nearly 60 songs related to Vietnamese culture and history, Dr. Anthony Cao Minh Hung has also authored the book "My Life and Many Other Short Stories",

which tells his story of hardship and his path to success since arrival in America at the age of 19. The book has inspired many youths.

With his passionate, tremendous dedication, hardworking, and extraordinary leadership, Dr. Anthony Cao Minh Hung has made great impacts in the Vietnamese American community. He is known among his peers and members as a great leader in many aspects, particularly on preserving the Vietnamese American heritage and building leadership in the younger generation.

RECOGNIZING ANGOLA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., JOAQUIM DO ESPIRITO SANTO, FOR HIS VISIT TO ATLANTA

**HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Angola's Ambassador to the United States, Joaquim do Espirito Santo, for coming to the City of Atlanta to celebrate our native son, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Angolans arrived in the American South 400 years ago as the first African slaves brought to the colonies that would become the United States. Atlanta was incorporated in 1845, and by 1850, Atlanta's population was roughly 20 percent African slaves, mostly from Western Africa and what is now Angola. Angola and the City of Atlanta have a long shared history, and Ambassador Joaquim do Espirito Santo's recent visit honors the relationship between Angola and Atlanta.

While in Atlanta, Ambassador Joaquim do Espirito Santo joined the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service alongside me at Ebenezer Baptist Church, one of the most powerful modern institutions of the Civil Rights movement. A guest of Dr. Bernice King, Ambassador Joaquim do Espirito Santo attended the service on behalf of Angolan President João Lourenço.

While in town, Ambassador Espirito Santo further built ties with Atlanta's thriving businesses and organizations. By meeting with Atlanta's Mayor, City Council, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Ambassador Espirito Santo has laid the groundwork for continued cooperation and partnership between Atlanta and Angola. Similarly, the Ambassador met with the Atlanta-based Carter Center to thank them for their excellent work eliminating Guinea Worm Disease in Angola.

Recognizing Atlanta's shared past and exciting future with Angola, the Atlanta City Council officially proclaimed January 17, MLK Day, as "Angola Day" in Atlanta. In the words of the City Council, "this growing partnership between Atlanta and Angola is a story that has come nearly full circle, from tragedy and injustice to opportunity and hope."

I join the City of Atlanta in congratulating the Ambassador on his timely visit and look forward to the blossoming cultural and economic relationship between Atlanta and Angola.

HONORING U.S. PARALYMPIAN  
OKSANA MASTERS

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Oksana Masters, who is now the most decorated U.S. Winter Paralympian of all time.

Born in Ukraine in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, Ms. Masters faced challenges early on in life due to the serious impacts of radiation exposure. But, like most things in her life, she overcame these obstacles with unyielding courage. Knowing the serious medical attention that would be needed, Ms. Masters was placed up for adoption and spent the first seven and a half years of her life in orphanages. After being adopted, Ms. Masters' family moved to Louisville when she was 13 years old, where she excelled in sports and graduated from my alma mater, Atherton High School. During her impressive career, Ms. Masters has established herself as a world-class athlete who continues to inspire young people in Louisville and beyond to pursue their dreams in the face of adversity.

With a gold medal in the cross-country skiing mixed relay at the 2022 Beijing Paralympics, Ms. Masters now holds 14 Winter Paralympic medals in cross country skiing and biathlon, along with three more Summer Paralympic medals in cycling and rowing. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Ms. Masters is an outspoken activist on behalf of her home country, where she advocates to improve medical services for children with disabilities in Ukraine.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and the city of Louisville, I thank Ms. Masters, for her leadership and for representing the United States with such distinction. She is an incredible role model both on and off the slopes, and I have no doubt that she will continue to be a source of pride for her friends and family, the people of Louisville and our entire nation.

HONORING MEAGAN HOLLAND FOR  
HER SERVICE TO THE U.S.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 24, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Meagan Holland, a committed public servant who worked in my office as Press Secretary and Digital Director. During her tenure, Meagan has spearheaded the implementation of innovative strategies to expand my office's digital outreach and better engage the constituents of Florida's 24th congressional district. I thank Meagan for her calm demeanor, unwavering professionalism, and extensive expertise.

Meagan has been an integral member of my Washington, D.C. office and has meaningfully contributed with her strong writing skills, creativity, and skilled use of digital media software. In her capacity as lead communications